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RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHDC

UNCLAS PORT OF SPAIN 000033

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR WHA/CAR, WHA/PPC, G/TIP, INL, DRL, PRM, IWI, WHA/PPC,
DEPT PASS TO USAID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [ELAB](#) [KTIP](#) [KCRM](#) [KFRD](#) [KWMN](#) [PHUM](#) [PREF](#) [SMIG](#) [ASEC](#) [TD](#)

SUBJECT: JOINT TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS WORKSHOP FOR T&T AND COLOMBIA

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED; PLEASE PROTECT ACCORDINGLY

¶1. (SBU) During a January 15 meeting with a local International Organization of Migration (IOM) representative, EmbOffs learned of a planned workshop between the Government of Trinidad and Tobago (GOTT) and the Government of Colombia (GOC) to strengthen their ability to combat trafficking in persons (TIP). The meeting is tentatively set for late February. On January 23, National Security Minister Martin Joseph publicly referred to the coming workshop as part of an effort to determine whether human trafficking exists in the region.

¶2. (SBU) According to IOM, what began as an idea for a small gathering between the GOTT and GOC to informally discuss illegal migration problems grew into the formal planned two-day session. The draft agenda suggests the meeting will tackle such issues as the process of shelter and identification of victims of trafficking/illegal migrants in T&T and their return and reintegration process in Colombia.

¶3. (SBU) Comment: Whether trafficking exists in T&T is a topic of open public discussion. Both the Attorney General and the Commissioner of Police have denied evidence for the existence of TIP, but others in the government have been more willing to consider the possibility. Due to five documented TIP cases linking T&T and Colombia, and also due to the number of Colombian women voluntarily smuggled to T&T, this coming meeting is a welcome step in the campaign against TIP. End Comment.